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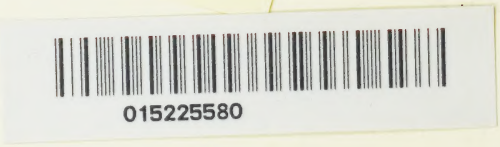

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United States. Congress. House.
Committee to whom was referred
the Memorial of Abraham Markle
and Gideon Frisbee

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REPORT

Of the Committee to whom was referred the memorial of Abraham Markle and Gideon Frisbee.

Made January 24, 1816.

Accompanied with a Bill for their relief.

The Committee to whom was referred the memorial of Abraham Markle and Gideon Frisbee,

REPORT....

That on due consideration of the memorial, and of the evidence of the facts therein contained, they are satisfied that the memorialists, and their associates were residents in Upper Canada, at the commencement of the late war between the United States and Great Britain to which they had migrated from the United States. That, unwilling to take up arms against their native country, being attached to the principles and forms of its government, and encouraged by the hopes of success and protection held out to them by the commanders of the several American armies, which appeared on their frontier and invaded their province, they abandoned their families and their fortunes, and joined the American standard. That these acts incurred a forfeiture of their estates to the British government, which were seized to the use of that government, by its officers, in pursu-

ance of laws passed for that purpose. It further appeared to your committee that the memorialists and their associates joined the American army at a period when their services were much wanted, and that they were with the army in all its important actions and operations, on the Niagara, during the campaign of 1814 under general Brown, and contributed much to its success by their bravery, their acquaintance with the inhabitants in Canada, and the knowledge they imparted of the local situation of the country. That in consequence of their adherence to the American cause some of them were reduced from opulence, and all of them to want.

Your committee are therefore of opinion that the case of the memorialists and their associates, presents a strong claim on the equity of this government, and have instructed their chairman to present a bill for their relief.

Washington, January 17, 1816.

GENTLEMEN,

Among the causes of my regret at leaving Congress, one is, that it will deprive me of the satisfaction I should take, in contributing my vote and exertions in support of the application of the Canadian volunteers, who joined our standard in the late war.

My situation on the Niagara Frontier has, perhaps, furnished me with better information respecting the character and situation of the Canadian officers before the war, than is possessed by any other member of Congress; and during their term of service in the army, I had daily opportunities of witnessing their zeal and usefulness. The Canadian officers generally, and more especially

the four gentlemen now in Washington, Messrs. Markle, Frisbee, Biggar, and Crosby, were citizens of most respectable standing in Canada, before the war; and in abandoning the British, for the American cause, were influenced, I am satisfied, solely by their stronger political, and filial attachment to the United States, (the country which gave them birth,) in opposition to their pecuniary interests.

In the campaign of 1814, the officers of the Canadian corps, rendered very important services to our cause, not only by the distinguished gallantry which they, on all occasions exhibited in the field, (and they were in all the principal engagements of general Brown's army,) but by the useful information which they were enabled, by their minute topographical knowledge of the country, and their acquaintance with its inhabitants, to furnish to the commanding general.

Justice, in my opinion, requires that these people should be compensated for their losses; especially when we consider the allurements which were held out to them by the commanders of our armies. And in the event of future difficulties between the United States, and Great Britain and her colonies, you will readily perceive how strongly, a liberal remuneration of aids of this sort, is recommended by considerations of policy.

I remain with great respect,
Your obedient servant,
PETER B. PORTER.

To the gentlemen composing
the committee on the memorial of
Abraham Markle, Gideon Frisbee,
and others.

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